(d) whether the Prime Minister has announced that the Institute would be an autonomous unit, so that inter-faith ideas may be fully achieved;

(e) whether this has been fully under consideration; if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(f) the details of the land required and the concrete proposals received from the Expert Committee constituted for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Based on the decision taken earlier to establish the Institute as an autonomous body, a scheme was prepared for inclusion in the Eleventh Plan. It has since been decided to set it up as a centre of Research on Sri Guru Granth Sahib studies in the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. Rs. One crore has so far been released for the purpose.

Guidelines for affiliation to foreign boards

2162. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy guidelines regarding affiliation of Indian and India-based international schools to foreign boards and the permission to foreign teachers;

(b) the number of India based International schools being run in the country, State-wise;

(c) the ratio of Indian and foreign students in such schools; and

(d) the ratio of Indian and foreign teachers in such schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Requests for appointment of foreign teachers in schools in India affiliated to foreign boards (other then schools set up by foreign embassies) are considered on a case-to-case basis from academic angle and are further subject to requisite clearance from Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of External Affairs. For affiliation, schools apply directly to the concerned Boards as per the procedure laid down.

(b) to (d) At present there are about 180 schools in India, which are affiliated to foreign boards. The State-wise distribution of these schools, ratio of Indian and foreign students and ratio of Indian and foreign teachers in such schools are not maintained in this Ministry.

Higher education institutions in NER

2163. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of higher education institutions in North Eastern Region, particularly in Sikkim, as on date;

(b) whether Government are setting up such higher education institutions in the region during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof State-wise, particularly in Sikkim, alongwith the financial assistance allocated by Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The number of higher educational institutions in the North Eastern Region including Sikkim is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) and (c) With the establishment of one Central University each in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Tripura, all States in the region have now at least one Central University to cater to the higher educational needs of the State. The other initiatives of the Central Government for higher and technical education in the region during the Eleventh Plan period include:

- establishment of the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management (RGIIM) at Shillong;
- strengthening the Engineering/Management Faculties in the Universities within the region;
- upgradation of the Manipur Institute of Technology, (MIT) into National Institute of Technology (NIT);
- conducting programmes under Distance Education mode in the region by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) through its regional centers established in North Eastern States.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) provides Plan and Non-Plan funds to the Central Universities. For 2007-08, an allocation of Rs.239.23 crores has been earmarked for the Central Universities in the northeast region. A budget provision of Rs.10.00 crore for RGIIM, Shillong and Rs.5.50 crores for CIT, Kokrajhar has been made. The University Grants Commission has also released Rs.0.50 crore to Sikkim University to meet the immediate requirement during 2007-08.

Statement

Details regarding higher education institutions in NER

States	Universities/ Deemed Universities/ Institutions of National Importance **	Research Institutions	Arts, Science & Commerce Colleges **	Engg., Tech., & Arch. Colleges	Medical Colleges (Allop/ Ayur/ Homoe/ Unani/ Nurs./ Pharm.) etc.	Teacher Training Colleges	Others Includes Law, Management MCA, IT & Agriculture, etc.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Arunachal Pradesh	2*	3	10	1	1	2	1
Assam	6	0	427	3	7	40	21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Manipur	2	0	73	1	1	3	1
Meghalaya	1	0	58	0	0	2	0
Mizoram	1	0	31	0	0	2	1
Nagaland	1	0	49	0	0	1	18
Sikkim	4 ***	1	7	1	1	2	2
Tripura	2 *	0	25	1	1	1	5
TOTAL:	19	4	680	7	11	53	49

Source: - Selected Educational Statistics - 2004-05, M/o HRD, D/O Higher Education.

* Figure includes one State University each in Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura, which have been converted into Central Univerity *w.e.f.* 9.4.2007 and 2.7.2007 respectively.

** Source: - University Grants Commission (UGC).

***Figure includes a new Central University (Sikkim University), which has been established *w.e.f.* 2.7.2007. In Sikkim, apart from Sikkim University (Central University), there are three private universities, namely, (i) Manipal University, Rangpoo, (ii) ICFAI University, Gangtok, and (iii) Eastern Institute of Integrated Learning and Management (EIILM), Jorethang. In addition, there are four-Degree level Government colleges including one Law college and three Private colleges imparting degree level courses.

Gratuity benefits to teachers

2164. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Supreme Court judgement of 2004 had debarred the teachers of private schools from claiming gratuity benefits unde the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, as they were not construed to be workmen; and

(b) whether Government propose to remove the ambiguities in interpretation of the Act, as manifested in the judgement, and if so, the details of the-proposed Government moves to nullify the impact of the Court ruling, by suitable legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in their judgement dated 13th January, 2004 in a matter between Ahmedabad Private Primary Teachers' Association *Vs* Administrative Officers and others have ruled that teachers are not intended to be covered for extension of gratuity benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972. Ministry of Labour and Employment, which is the Administrative Ministry dealing with this matter, has informed that certain proposals to extend the benefits under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 in respect of teachers in private schools are under process.

Regulatory authority for higher education

2165. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has proposed fo the setting up of an independent regulatory authority for higher education;